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EDWIN BALMER

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(Continued.)

Jim Ashby was the only corporal there; the lieutenant and the sergeants were killed. Corporal Ashby therefore was in command. But he could not even fix bayouet to his own rifle. He could not rise and start to charge those yelling men below, much less force others to charge. He could stick to his post at the window and he could fire. He had fixed that in his mind, or the wooden legged flend had fixed it there for him. So he and the rest held their places and fired while the regulars," who had held the positions on both sides, rushed out with bayo-Lets flashing and drove the yelling. charging men back to the water, then

ers who were climbing up. Then more boats came. But from the lower river American destroyers dashed up with quick firing guns all booming. The batteries in Brooklyn turned upon them. They sank one of the destroyers, now another. A third blew up. But how they had driven through those beats! The shells! They were bursting

craselessly, furiously again about N 94. That meant-Houston was yelling it-that the attack was beaten back; the regent's men were retreating; they were no longer trying to

The guns across the river shelled the American positions now to cover the retreat. They kept up the shell fire for half an hour longer in revenge for the cheek. Then there was a cesweak. but glowing within with the of heroic achievement, turned about and saw Houston. The wooden legged man was kneeling beside Swen-son and caving for a hurt in "Swedy's"

"Corporat," he said quietly, "the boys on each side of as got us through, and the general could better have had us take more loss. We must get the baymust be able to bayonet!"

> CHAPTER XXL The Charge.

part of cotton bales and ballast bags chinked up with bricks and stone from the debris of the warehouse. It ction of firing trench which wirded the Manhattan water front from the Battery to the Bronx and then along the Hudson and the Harlem, too, us the regent drew his lines about the billion dollar fortress of Manhattan.

It was ten days after that first assnult. according to Jim's reckoningof Kilbane, who knew it was eleven days-that the infantry of the regent crossed to Manhattan island near the old line of Manhattan bridge. The regniars, who had held the line up there, must have been killed, and the American batteries about there either were destroyed or out of ammunition. That was more likely, Jim thought, for if twenty-two-men at N 94 couldn't get rifle cartridges except at night when some one crept to the opening of the subway the artillerymen farther away must be having their troubles. Or perhaps more of the guns had burst and killed their crews.

Guns were bursting pretty often now, Jim knew, but that wasn't strange: they were defective guns-a lot of 200 guns made for the allies during the European war. They hadn't been accepted on account of defects, so they'd been returned, and when this war came the army had grabbed them, for at least they were guns; they would shoot a good many times, maybe, before they burst. Suppose they were going to kill the men who had to fire them! More American men would be killed if the guns weren't fired, if riflemen were going to try to fight infantrymen and artillery without any artillery support at all. Besides, if the Americans used those defective, foreign guns the Amerlean factories could supply them with shells right away without having to change a pattern or rip out a machine. The regent's men were coming on-

on toward the ramparts of N 94. The twenty-two men there were being trained to holding a position. or Winslow and Houston had convinced them all that if a man tried to run he surely would be shot through the head. So, as the regent's men moved on "N 94" twenty-two rifles fired over the cotton bales.

"Bayonets now, boys! Bayonets! Stand up and give it to them! They're ing! Give it to them! Oh, stand and give 'em the steel or you'll get it!

Now-bayonets! Bayonets!" The recruits could not all stand to that. Some of them ran and were shot, not by Winslow or Houston, but by the regent's men. Others fell down and tried to hide behind the cotton bales. But when Winslow jumped up on a bale to fight and Houston, stumbling a little I cause of his wooden leg, stood up also others followed them, Paddy Kilbane, for one, and

Jim Ashby fought beside him. Steel against steel! Kilbane was

quick. He lunged low and got a man before one got him. But Swenson was a bit slow. He tried to club his musket and was thrust through. Yet the man opposite Jim was fighting with clubbed musket, and Jim could not reach him. Instead, Jim went down. quite helpless, but not quite unconscious, and felt other men falling upon him. They did not move because they were dead, and as he did not move the enemy considered him dead also. They went over him and past him about business which they had yet to do



"Bayonets now, boys! Bayonets!"

farther on. So Jim, utterly spent and nerveless, rested. Every one about him was dead. Finally he fell asleep. When he awoke Jim gazed on the faces of the dead about him. Paddy Kilbane, the Irish boy who had been a shipping clerk till a couple of weeks ago and who had been picked to try out in the infield with the Cubs, had been threst through the heart. The bayonet bad pushed from his pocket a scrap of lace, all crimson now. Jim recalled it-the bandke chief Paddy had found in the seat of the train which had belonged to one of the beautiful refugees who had fled to Chicago So Paddy had kept it, the guerdon from his unknown lady for whom he had fought. Well, the Irish boy's gallantries were over. He was very bold and handsome, as the star shell showed him. There seemed almost a smile on his lips. He lay as he would have liked to lie if one of those blushing little colleeas who came to the camp in Chicago should come to see him now. Swedy Swenson, who had carried his rife like a mop, was bayoneted through and through. He was not OT the next time, nor yet the at all neat now. Swelly would not like next, nor the next, was Com-pany F, a band of twenty-two few days before. Jim found it and put men now, able to bayonet. It in his pocket. Winslow was dead, as a bullong, was gone. N 94 too. So was Houston—every man of the company except Jim, who had faced that charge. The others were dead, too-those who could not face it. He took a rifle and was fumbling about dead men's belts and bandoffers for cartridges when he heard some one approaching. He crouched very still and waited. A star shell blazed and showed him a girl's slight figure bending over the bodies at the other end of N 94. Jim watched her dazedly, amazed. She was alone. Besides himself she was the only living thing in the light of the star she!!. Its light burned out, but the girl continued her search in the darkness. She worked slowly in Jim's direction, examining each still form. Jim waited for another star shell to show her to him again; she was quite close now. She was a girl of twenty-two or twentythree, he guessed, with clear cut fea tures. She wore shirt waist and plain

> ing it over. "Those men are all dead." Jim addressed her quietly.

skirt and she was without hat. She

looked like an American girl. That

definition included, Jim realized, Mar-

ion Marlatt as well as Agnes. She

might be of the other side, but Jim

believed she was not. She had come

to Winslow's body now and was turn-

She straightened and looked about quickly, but without starting. "Where are you?" she asked in a low, gentle

"Here." Jim stood up.

"You are hurt?" "No; I was-just resting here."

"I see." She came closer and gazed at him. She showed no surprise that he, unhurt, had lain there to rest. She simply took his hand and began leading him away. She guided him by the flare of the star shells over the debrit, away from the river toward the great granite and brick end the pinnacles of the city, where the searchlights were playing. There were none of the re-gent's soldiers about, she told him. The assault which had swept over N 94 had broken down soon afterward: the enemy were killed or taken or driven back, but the Americans had not yet reformed their positions along

that part of the water front. She led him through choked, debris strewn streets, with smoldering ruins on both sides, where sentinels challong I them, and she answered and was allowed to lead him on. She led him past charred ruins and great. gaunt heaps of brick and stone and plaster and steel beams, where men searched with electric flashlights; she led him into a street-a wide street, a ragged, eerie, spectral caricature of Broadway, where she was challenged again and where a great gun was firing. It was a long barreled gun of the sort seen on warships, but it was mounted upon a truck, which stood on a car track and moved away after the gun had been fired up into the sir. for another Swenson, the ex-janitor. The girl turned with Jim into a building, where he lay down upon a cot and

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went to sleep. Upon the second morning after that fought desperately as the regent's troops slowly but surely battered New York to pieces. The regulars had be-n withdrawn; only the militia remained. From high up on the Metropolitan tower-the regent's guns had blasted away the brick and stone, but most of the steel framework still stodd-Jim gazed at conquered country beyond the Manhattan mosts. In that circle within his horizon there lived, or had lived, one-sixteenth of the population of the United States. The millions of Manhattan had disappeared. Ordered away by the American army authorities, driven in headlong flight by the regent's shells, they had fled, as Jim himself had observed, by the thousand as far as Chicago.

Some men went quite mad under the shock of the shells, but the sane fought on.

The Croton aqueducts were cut. The men drank water stored in tanks and bathtubs or brought from the reserunder the burned and shattered buildings. They cooked with the kindling of mansion panels and balustrades, of tenement floors and walls.

Then their lines about the city broke and the garrisons of the trenches, falling back upon the gaunt, battered skeletons of the great steel buildings, became city guerillas. From building to building they fought and, dying, made the regent pay. At last where the Americans gathered came the order from Bainbridge, "Let every man save himself as he can."

It meant that, though here and there building held out or a cellar was garrisoned, the fortress was taken. It no longer served to hold any great force of the enemy. His ships were at the ruins of the quays.

> CHAPTER XXII. On the Hudson.

N scattered bands or one by one. the last of the garrison of Manhattan crept out of their hiding places to make their ways down to the Hudson. Jim Ashby-he had lost all rank in recent days-was one of those who reached the river near where had been the Chelsea plers. There was a sort of tunnel through the debris which was not known to the regent's sentries or was not well watched. Jim found the passage and. creeping back, led others through it to the water. One of those who followed him was a girl. Jim saw her profile

before a glint of light, and she saw him, for she was real! But he dared not even whisper. Yet he kept close to her, and when he gained the water again he took her with him upon the raft which he prepared.

The tide was flowing very strong and fast; the current caught Jim's raft and bore it out to midstream; the tide took it up the river. The wind hopped the water over the boards, drenching Jim through and drenching the girl who lay beside him. He rolled a bit

"What are you doing here?" he whispered, his lips almost touching her cheek. "You should have stayed-or

It was many days earlier before the New Jersey end of the Pennsylvania tunnels were taken by the regent that Bainbridge had ordered all women sent away except those who were caring for the badly wounded in the basement hospitals of Manhattan fortress. Those women now were ordered, for their safety, still to remain, and, under the protection of the Red Cross, to become prisoners of the invaders.

(To Be Continued.)

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